

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 5-7, and 9-10.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Copy".

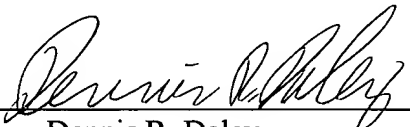
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Dennis R. Daley (Reg. No. 34,994), at (612) 336.4689.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 8 November 2001

By 
Dennis R. Daley
Reg. No. 34,994

DRD:hjh

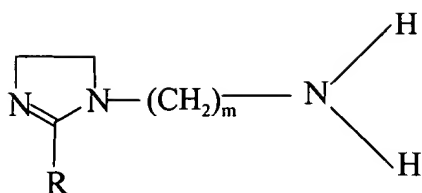
MARKED-UP COPY

3. A process as claimed in [one or both of claims 1 and 2,] claim 1, characterized in that the product concentrate contains 0.5 to 99.5% by weight of one or more lubricating components selected from ether amines, ether diamines, ether polyamines, mono-, di- or polyamines and imidazole derivatives each containing at least one alkyl group with 6 to 22 carbon atoms and/or salts thereof and 0.5 to 90% by weight of one or more clear solubility improvers selected from amphoteric surfactants and ether carboxylic acids, the balance to 100% by weight consisting of water and/or other active substances or auxiliaries.

5. A process as claimed in [one or more of claims 1 to 4,] claim 1, characterized in that the ether amines, ether diamines, ether polyamines, mono-, di- or polyamines and imidazole derivatives each containing at least one alkyl group with 6 to 22 carbon atoms and/or salts thereof are selected from compounds belonging to the following groups:

- A) $R-NH-(CH_2)_r-NH_2$ (1a)
 $R-NH-(CH_2)_r-N^+H_3 \quad X^-$ (1b)
 $R-N^+H_2-(CH_2)_r-N^+H_3 \quad 2X^-$ (1c),
- B) $R-NH-[(CH_2)_r-NH]_y-(CH_2)_m-NH_2$ (2a)
 $R-NH-[(CH_2)_r-NH]_y-(CH_2)_m-NH_2 \cdot (H^+X^-)_n$ (2b)
- C) $R-O-[(CH_2)_r-NH]_p-(CH_2)_m-NH_2$ (3a)
 $R-O-[(CH_2)_r-NH]_p-(CH_2)_m-NH_2 \cdot (H^+X^-)_n$ (3b)
- D) $R-NY_2$ (4)

E)



(5)

in which the substituents R represent

a linear or branched, saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated alkyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms,

the substituents Y independently of one another represent hydrogen or a methyl group,

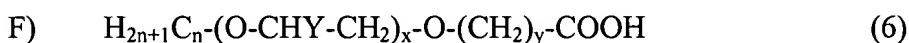
X⁻ is an equivalent of an anion from the group consisting of amidosulfonate, nitrate, halide, sulfate, hydrogen carbonate, carbonate, phosphate or carboxylate,

m, r and y independently of one another are integers of 1 to 6,

p is 0 or an integer of 1 to 6 and

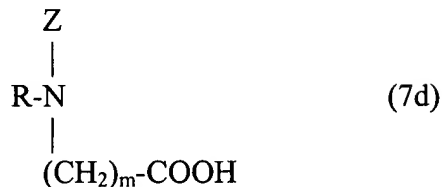
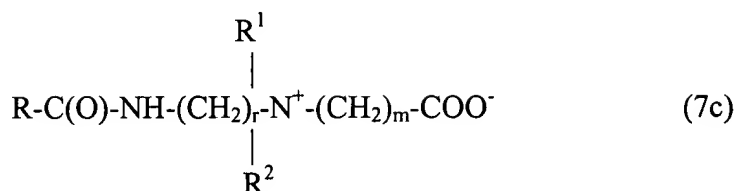
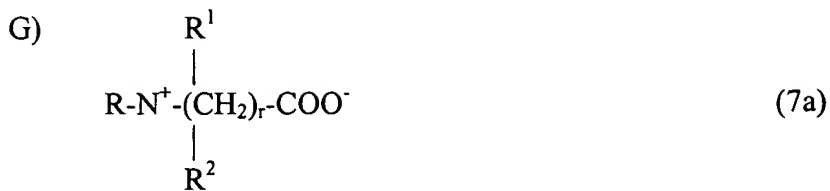
n in B) is an integer of 1 to 2+y and, in C), an integer of 1 to 1+p.

6. A process as claimed in [one or more of claims 1 to 5,] claim 1, characterized in that the clear solubility improvers are selected from ether carboxylic acids corresponding to the following general formula:



where Y is hydrogen or a methyl group, n is a number of 10 to 20, x is a number of 1 to 20 and y is a number of 1 to 5,

and from amphoteric surfactants corresponding to the following general formulae:



where the substituents R represent

a linear or branched, saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated alkyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms,

Z has the same meaning as R¹ or is a group with the formula -(CH₂)_m-COOH,

R¹ and R² independently of one another represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, hydroxyethyl or alkoxylate groups and

r and m independently of one another are integers of 1 to 6.

7. A process as claimed in [one or more of claims 1 to 6] claim 1 using an installation comprising

- a) one or more nozzles for spraying the surface of the conveyor with an aqueous solution,
- b) one or more dosing stations provided with i) at least a first dosing pump in at least

one dosing station for diluting the aqueous solution mentioned to conveyor lubricant concentration, ii) at least a second dosing pump in at least one dosing station for diluting the aqueous solution mentioned to cleaning and/or disinfecting concentration or with at least one dosing pump of which the dosing ratio can be switched to dilute the aqueous solution mentioned to conveyor lubricant concentration and to cleaning and/or disinfecting concentration,

- c) a pipe system for carrying the aqueous solution mentioned from the dosing stations to the nozzles.

9. A process as claimed in claim 7 [or 8], characterized in that the installation also comprises an adjustable time switch which alternately switches the first or the second dosing pump on and off after pre-selected time intervals or, in the case of a dosing pump with a reversible dosing ratio, controls adjustment of the conveyor lubricant concentration or the cleaning and/or disinfecting concentration.

10. A process as claimed in [one or more of claims 7 to 9,] claim 7, characterized in that the installation comprises other nozzles by which the underneath of the conveyors and/or guide boxes of the conveyors can be sprayed with the aqueous solution.